

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing documents, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a remote user;

providing said user with consulting advice regarding said request based upon data input by said user, said consulting advice including advice on document retrieval costs, document storage strategies, document storage organization, protection of secured documents, or delivery options of documents;

selecting an application service provider from a plurality of application service providers based on said request, wherein said request is not related to said application service provider;

forwarding said request to said application service provider;

receiving information from said application service provider indicating information of a document provided from said application service provider to said user;

formatting said document from said application service provider into a standardized format regardless of which application service provider of said plurality of application service providers is selected;

generating a unified bill from bills received from application service providers; and transmitting said unified bill to said user.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing said user with said document from said application service provider.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing said application service provider with a user access level.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of searching for said document in said application service provider.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing said document to said user comprises:

delivering a print out of said document to said user; and
providing said user with a URL of said document.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing said document to said user comprises transmitting said document to a user storage device.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing said document to said user comprises transmitting said document to a user display device.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
retrieving said document;
formatting said document into a format requested by said user;
providing said user with said document formatted in said formatting step.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the receiving information step comprises receiving the information which is a billing information.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the receiving information step comprises receiving the information which is the document.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the receiving information step comprises receiving the information which is a URL for said document.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for managing documents, comprising:
means for receiving a request from a remote user;
means for providing said user with consulting advice regarding said request based upon data input by said user, said consulting advice including advice on document retrieval

costs, document storage strategies, document storage organization, protection of secured documents, or delivery options of documents;

means for selecting an application service provider from a plurality of application service providers based on said request, wherein said request is not related to said application service provider;

means for forwarding said request to said application service provider;

means for receiving information from said application service provider indicating information of a document provided from said application service provider to said user;

means for formatting said document from said application service provider into a standardized format regardless of which application service provider of said plurality of application service providers is selected;

means for generating a unified bill from bills received from application service providers; and

means for transmitting said unified bill to said user.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 13, further comprising means for providing said user with said document from said application service provider.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 13, further comprising means for providing said application service provider with a user access level.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 13, further comprising means for searching for said document in said application service provider.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 14, wherein the means for providing said user with said document comprises:

means for delivering a print out of said document to said user; and

means for providing said user with a URL of said document.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 14, wherein the means for providing said user with said document comprises means for transmitting said document to a user storage device.

19. (Original) The system of Claim 14, wherein the means for providing said user with said document comprises means for transmitting said document to a user display device.

20. (Original) The system of Claim 13, further comprising:
means for retrieving said document;
means for formatting said document into a format requested by said user; and
means for providing said user with said document formatted in said formatting step.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The system of Claim 13, wherein the means for receiving information comprises a means for receiving a billing information.

23. (Original) The system of Claim 13, wherein the means for receiving information comprises a means for receiving the document.

24. (Original) The system of Claim 13, wherein the means for receiving information comprises a means for receiving a URL for said document.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:
a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a computer to manage documents over a computer network, the computer program code mechanism including:

a first computer code device configured to receive a request from a remote user;

a second computer code device configured to provide said user with consulting advice regarding said request based upon data input by said user, said consulting advice including

advice on document retrieval costs, document storage strategies, document storage organization, protection of secured documents, or delivery options of documents;

a third computer code device configured to select an application service provider from a plurality of application service providers based on said request, wherein said request is not related to said application service provider;

a fourth computer code device configured to forward said request to said application service provider;

a fifth computer code device configured to receive information from said application service provider indicating information of a document provided from said application service provider to said user;

a sixth computer code configured to format said document from said application service provider into a standardized format regardless of which application service provider of said plurality of application service providers is selected;

a seventh computer code device configured to generate a unified bill from bills received from application service providers; and

an eighth computer code device configured to transmit said unified bill to said user.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 25, further comprising a ninth computer code device configured to provide said user with said document from said application service provider.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 25, further comprising a ninth computer code device configured to provide said application service provider with a user access level.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 25, further comprising a ninth computer code device configured to search for said document in said application service provider.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 26, wherein the ninth computer code device comprises:

a tenth computer code device configured to deliver a print out of said document to said user; and

an eleventh computer code device configured to provide said user with a URL of said document.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 26, wherein the ninth computer code device comprises a tenth computer code device configured to transmit said document to a user storage device.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 26, wherein the ninth computer code device comprises a tenth computer code device configured to transmit said document to a user display device.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 25, further comprising:

a ninth computer code device configured to retrieve said document;

a tenth computer code device configured to format said document into a format requested by said user; and

an eleventh computer code device configured to provide said user with said document formatted in said formatting step.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 25, wherein the fifth computer code device is configured to receive a billing information.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 25, wherein the fifth computer code device is configured to receive the document.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 25, wherein the fifth computer code device is configured to receive a URL for said document.

37. (Previously Presented) A method for managing documents, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a remote user;

receiving a document and storage information from said user;

providing said user with consulting advice regarding said request based upon data input by said user, said consulting advice including advice on document retrieval costs, document storage strategies, document storage organization, protection of secured documents, or delivery options of documents;

selecting an application service provider from a plurality of application service providers based on said storage information;

transmitting said document and at least part of said storage information to a storage device of said application service provider;

formatting said document from said application service provider into a standardized format regardless of which application service provider of said plurality of application service providers is selected;

generating a unified bill from bills received from application service providers; and

transmitting said unified bill to said user.

38. (Original) The method of Claim 37, wherein the step of receiving said document and storage information is performed after a storage time period associated with said document to be transmitted.

39. (Original) The method of Claim 37, wherein the steps of receiving and transmitting storage information comprises receiving and transmitting a user access level.

40. (Original) The method of Claim 37, wherein the step of selecting said application service provider is performed based on a document type for said document.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) A system for managing documents, comprising
means for receiving a request from a remote user;
means for receiving a document and storage information from said user;
means for providing said user with consulting advice regarding said request based upon data input by said user, said consulting advice including advice on document retrieval costs, document storage strategies, document storage organization, protection of secured documents, or delivery options of documents;

means for selecting an application service provider from a plurality of application service providers based on said storage information;

means for transmitting said document and at least part of said storage information to a storage device of said application service provider;

means for formatting said document from said application service provider into a standardized format regardless of which application service provider of said plurality of application service providers is selected;

means for generating a unified bill from bills received from application service providers; and

means for transmitting said unified bill to said user.

43. (Original) The system of Claim 42, wherein the means for receiving said document and said storage information is configured to receive said document and said storage information after a storage time period associated with said document to be transmitted.

44. (Original) The system of Claim 42, wherein the means for receiving and transmitting storage information comprises means for receiving and transmitting a user access level.

45. (Original) The system of Claim 42, wherein the means for selecting said application service provider is configured to select based on a document type for said document.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously Presented) A computer program product, comprising:
a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a computer to manage documents over a computer network, the computer program code mechanism comprising:

a first computer code device configured to receive a request from a remote user;
a second computer code device configured to receive a document and storage information from said user;

a third computer code device configured to provide said user with consulting advice regarding said request based upon data input by said user, said consulting advice including advice on document retrieval costs, document storage strategies, document storage organization, protection of secured documents, or delivery options of documents;

a fourth computer code device configured to select an application service provider from a plurality of application service providers based on said storage information;

a fifth computer code device configured to transmit said document and at least part of said storage information to a storage device of said application service provider;

a sixth computer code configured to format said document from said application service provider into a standardized format regardless of which application service provider of said plurality of application service providers is selected;

a seventh computer code device configured to generate a unified bill from bills received from application service providers; and

an eighth computer code device configured to transmit said unified bill to said user.

48. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 47, wherein the second computer code device is configured to receive said document and storage information after a storage time period associated with said document to be transmitted.

49. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 47, wherein the second and fifth computer code devices are configured to receive and transmit a user access level respectively.

50. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 47, wherein the fourth computer code device is configured to select said application service provider based on a document type for said document.

51-53. (Canceled)

54. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the consulting advice provided to said user includes advice on document search strategies, or updating of documents.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is obtained via a user interaction device by said user in response to a series of questions.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is generated based upon previously acquired data from said user.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 13, wherein the consulting advice provided to said user includes advice on document search strategies, or updating of documents.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 13, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is obtained via a user interaction device by said user in response to a series of questions.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 13, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is generated based upon previously acquired data from said user.

61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 25, wherein the consulting advice provided to said user includes advice on document search strategies, or updating of documents.

63. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 25, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is obtained via a user interaction device by said user in response to a series of questions.

64. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 25, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is generated based upon previously acquired data from said user.

65. (Canceled)

66. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein the consulting advice provided to said user includes advice on document search strategies, or updating of documents.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is obtained via a user interaction device by said user in response to a series of questions.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is generated based upon previously acquired data from said user.

69. (Canceled)

70. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 42, wherein the consulting advice provided to said user includes advice on document search strategies, or updating of documents.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 42, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is obtained via a user interaction device by said user in response to a series of questions.

72. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 42, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is generated based upon previously acquired data from said user.

73. (Canceled)

74. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 73, wherein the consulting advice provided to said user includes advice on document search strategies, and updating of documents.

75. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 47, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is obtained via a user interaction device by said user in response to a series of questions.

76. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 47, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is generated based upon previously acquired data from said user.